

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5196
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005
GOLD ORNAMENTS
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts being made by the Indian Government to get back the gold ornaments pledged with Lisbon based Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) during Portuguese rule in India which was taken to Portugal by BNU on the eve of liberalization of Goa, Daman and Diu;
- (b) whether some of the ornaments were reimported by SBI;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to exempt customs duty on the import of the gold ornaments held in the Portuguese bank to facilitate the return of these ornaments to their claimants; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):

- (a) The major portion of the gold ornaments pledged with BNU were brought back to India in 1991, barring a few packets pertaining to Indian who migrated to/settled in Portugal which were retained by BNU for delivery to the claimants presently residing in Portugal.
- (b) and (c) Yes, Sir. More than 5800 gold packets were re-imported to India by SBI in 1991 for handing over to the claimants residing in India.
- (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Waiver of Customs duty has been granted as a special measure on the gold ornaments handed over to the claimants on or before 31st July 2005. The customs duty exemption lapses thereafter.